

Calendar No. 662

86TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 654

PLACING IN TRUST STATUS CERTAIN LANDS ON THE WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION IN WYOMING

AUGUST 11, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. NEUBERGER, from the Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1751]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1751) to place in trust status certain lands on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 1751 is to donate 7,487 acres of Federal land within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Reservation, Wyo., to the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians.

The lands in question were purchased by the United States many years ago for \$250 to be used as an administrative site for the Extension agency on the reservation. In recent years the land has been idle. Its present value is \$285. Since these lands are excess to the needs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indians on the Wind River Reservation have asked that they be given to them in trust.

The Department of the Interior and Bureau of the Budget reports favoring enactment of S. 1751 are set forth below:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., July 29, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Your committee has requested a report on S. 1751, a bill to place in trust status certain lands on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming.

We have no objection to the enactment of the bill.

The bill donates to the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes of the Wind River Indian Reservation approximately 7.487 acres of federally owned land. The bill provides for a trust title. Whether the title should be taken in the United States in trust or in the name of the tribes in an unrestricted status is a subject upon which we express no opinion. Congress has sometimes provided for the one kind of title and sometimes for the other.

The land was purchased by the United States for \$250. It has a present value of approximately \$285. There are no improvements on the land.

The land was used as an administrative site for the headquarters of the Extension Agency on the reservation until about 10 years ago. For the next 7 years it was leased, and for the last 3 years it has been idle.

The land is bounded on the north and east by fee patented land, on the west by an administrative reserve, and on the south by a trust allotment.

It is the tribes' intention to use the land for leasing purposes in order to increase tribal income. It would probably be leased to the owner of the adjoining farm.

As the property is valued at less than \$1,000, this Department has authority under regulations of the General Services Administration to dispose of it by negotiated sale after circularizing other Federal agencies in the area to find out whether they are interested in obtaining the property. The Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a circular notice from its Billings office on February 13, 1959, and has had no indication of interest.

The Department has authority to sell the property to the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes of the Wind River Reservation by negotiation for \$285. The tribes have both the authority and the funds to buy it. The title would be taken in the name of the tribes, but it would be subject to a restriction against alienation without legislation by Congress. Whether the land would be taxable is not entirely clear under the present state of the law.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER C. ERNST,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., July 21, 1959.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your letter of April 23, 1959, requesting the comments of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 1751, a bill to place in trust status certain lands of the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming.

The purpose of this bill is to donate some 7.5 acres of federally owned land to the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes. The land is currently valued at \$285. The tribes would probably lease the land in order to increase tribal income.

The property in question is located within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Reservation and is excess to the needs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of the Budget would not object to enactment of S. 1751.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIP S. HUGHES,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

○

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1914
The purpose of this journal is to furnish the medical profession with a medium for the exchange of ideas and information, and to present a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the progress of medicine and surgery. It is intended to be a source of information for the medical profession, and to be a medium for the expression of their views on the subjects of medicine and surgery. The journal is published weekly, and is the property of the American Medical Association. It is published at the office of the Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents. The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

Published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.
Subscription price, \$5.00 per annum in advance.
Single copies, 15 cents.